



THE

# KNIGHT



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## THE CARDS OF ALEKSANDRAS RAČKUS

By Justinas Sajauskas and Stasys Sajauskas

From KOLEKCIJA #6, 1998

Translated by Algirdas Kepalas

Collectors of Lithuania know well the name of Aleksandras Mykolas Račkus. Especially the numismatists: this son of a patriotic book smuggler, historian, museum curator and physician has amassed a fine collection of coins.

Dr. Aleksandras M. Račkus, as he called himself, was born in 1893 in Čekiškė. Growing up and after two years in Kaunas Gymnasium (school) he left for the USA in 1910. He worked there and educated himself at various schools until he finished medical college in Chicago in 1922 and received a surgeon's diploma. For several years he practiced medicine in Chicago. He came to Kaunas in 1936, but returned to Chicago where he lived with his wife until his death in 1965.

All the activity of a historian and of a collector of Dr. A. M. Račkus was dedicated to Lithuania. A romantic who had more enthusiasm than special knowledge, he never missed an opportunity to publicize his country. He founded a Lithuanian museum for numismatics and history in Chicago in 1917. In 1919 he issued a medal dedicated to the first anniversary of Lithuania's independence (sculptor Van der Bergen). He helped Darius and Girėnas prepare themselves for their flight. He brought a very valuable exposition from the Lithuanian Museum for Numismatics and History to the World Lithuanian Congress of 1935 in Kaunas (the items were later acquired by the Ministry of Education in Lithuania). In this exposition A. M. Račkus presented his collection of Lithuanian coins which in volume did not have equal in the world. Even the Lithuanian part of the famous E. Hutten-Czapski numismatic collection in the National Museum of Cracow is surpassed. Later, A. M. Račkus' collection formed the basis for the Historical Section of the Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture, which today is the Numismatic Section of the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum. For this activity Aleksandras Račkus received a high decoration, the Order of Vytautas the Great, 3rd Class.

From November 1, 1936 to April 1, 1938, A. M. Račkus worked in the Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture as manager



ABOVE: Račkus card with coins of Aleksandras

of the Historical Section and arranged his collection. In 1940 to escape Soviet occupation he returned to the USA where he established a Museum of Lituaniatics<sup>1</sup> again, not forgetting his beloved numismatics. He was an active participant in the founding of the American-Lithuanian Philatelic Society and took part in almost all the better known Lithuanian newspapers. He wrote a book about the Goths, and edited the first volume of a planned multi-volume Cyclopedia about Lithuanian numismatics.<sup>2</sup>

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## 2. RAČKUS CARDS

(Continued from page 1...)



**Dr. Aleksandras Račkus (1893-1965)**

All these are known facts about this uncommonly active man. It is less known that he was an artist, too. He drew Lithuanian hillforts. On one of them near Čekiškė he showed a castle of nobleman Račkus. He also drew Christmas postal cards.

In 1996 Dr. A.M. Račkus' relative from Vilnius, Irena Kubilienė, visited the New World. When the librarian of St. Casimir Convent in Chicago found out who arrived she presented the guest with a collection of Christmas cards drawn by Dr. A. M. Račkus. These cards came to the convent library after the death of their childless author.

The collection is not a large one: 16 greeting cards printed on multi-colored inflexible paper. They all, except one, are to be attributed to the hand of Dr. A.M. Račkus. It is not difficult to determine the author of the cards. Five of them are marked with initials of the artist: A. R., R., R-s, A. Račkus. Nine cards are decorated with

Christmas greetings, from Dr. and Mrs. Račkus, just signed and sent to the family friends! And only two cards of the collection are not signed. But for one of these was used the design of the card "Freedom Bell" which is signed "R," and for the other the frame of the card "Comfort of the Ill" (names of the postal cards here and further on are ours). Nobody but the author of the cards could do this.

The greeting cards are multi-colored, printed by a silk-screen. Most of them are 12 x 16 cm. or similar sizes, and only two, which we conditionally shall call "The Bell" and "Mary of Šiluva" are of 9.5 x 19 cm. in size.

Six of the 16 cards are dated. The oldest one, Comfort of the Ill, was drawn in 1951, the newest, King Mindaugas' Church, was created in 1958. Other cards are dated thus: The Flight to Egypt, 1952; Mary of the Gate of Dawn, 1953; Little Sun, 1955; and Freedom Bell, 1956.

We call it the Christmas collection, although Christmas is not mentioned in all greetings, and anyway, Dr. A. M. Račkus' Christmas cards are a little unusual. What are they like? What are their subjects?

As already mentioned, A. M. Račkus came to the USA repeatedly to avoid occupation coming from the East. Therefore it is not by chance that the motif of the loss of the Fatherland recurs again and again in his Christmas and other greetings.

For instance, the oldest dated card, Comfort of the Ill, shows Mary standing on a stone holding the baby. Next to it is a forest, the witnesses of the miracle. This picture is repeated in two



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LEFT: CARD SHOWING THE CATHEDRAL OF MINDAUGAS



## J. P. WICKKUS BOTTLE TOKENS OF CHICAGO

J. P. Wiczkus Tokens

Vacketta-WB31-5, etc.

Metal Content: Brass

Shape: Round

Diameter: 24 mm.

Denominations: 5¢/1 bottle; 5¢/2 bottles;

10¢/3 bottles; 10¢/4 bottles;

15¢/6 bottles; 25¢/12 bottles.

Recently this author discovered and purchased a Lithuanian-American “good for” token for sale at the Michigan Token & Medal Society swap meet. It is a brass “bottle” token which apparently was issued in Chicago, Illinois in the days before Prohibition.

OBVERSE: “J.P. WICKKUS 4600 SO. MARSHFIELD AVE.”

REVERSE: “GOOD FOR 5¢ WHEN RETURNED WITH 2 BOTTLES.”

There are 6 different tokens in the series. All except the 10¢/4 bottles token are listed by the late Ora Vacketta in his “Trade Tokens of Illinois,” 2nd edition, pp. 221-222. See the denominations listing above for the known combination values.

This is an example of a Lithuanian merchant, we are assuming a saloonist or bottler, and the tokens he issued in order to get his bottles returned.

The name “Wiczkus” is definately an American-Polonized version of the Lithuanian “Viškus,” or “Viškas.” This token is an example of the interesting “challenge” numismatists face when researching a particular item in their collection. When and where did Mr. Viškus live? How long was he in business? Is there a photograph of him or his establishment? How/when is he listed in the merchants or city directories?

LNA member Ed Mikutis has a complete set of these tokens which he purchased way back in the 1960s. He contacted both the St. Casimir, and Lithuanian National Cemeteries to find out if Mr. Wiczkus is buried there, but not under that “W” spelling. So this token is definately “open” for research.

The lesson we can learn from this token is that there are still Lithuanian tokens “out there” in the numismatic community. You just have to look for them. Have any of our LNA members been



able to acquire Lithuanian tokens for their own collection? Let us share that information with our members!



Here are a couple of “mavericks” (location/origin city unknown) owned by Edward Bawden which are pictured here. Both are 5¢ denominations. The first is aluminum square, 26 mm. It was issued by the “Lithuanian Industrial Aid Society.” The second is aluminum 8-petal scalloped, 29 mm. diameter. It states, “Good for 5¢ LIETUVA In Trade.” Does anyone know anything about these groups?



## 4. THE LIFE OF A. RAČKUS--A LESSON FOR US ALL

[Published in *Draugas*, Tuesday, December 7, 1965, author not named]

Translated by Aleksandras Radžius

*"You know, that a husband is not an authority to a wife--does one of them ever listen to the advice of a good husband?" --A. Račkus, M.D.*

On the occasion of the Lithuanian Congress, and at the request of the Lithuanian government, in 1935 Doctor Aleksandras Račkus and his wife went to Lithuania. He took with him over a hundred boxes worth about \$200,000 U.S. dollars, of cultural wealth as a gift to Lithuania on the condition that the Lithuanian government would publish his three volume work on Lithuania numismatics. Each volume was 400 pages. One volume had many illustrations. Just as the government of Lithuania published the first volume, the work was interrupted by the events which started in 1940. Just before the death of Doctor Račkus, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture published the 344 page "Cyclopedia of Lithuanian Numismatics" Volume I by Dr. Račkus. Stanley Balzekas had purchased from Dr. Račkus his newly collected numismatic treasures. He will open up a Museum of Lithuanian Culture in 1966 in Brighton Park at 4012 Archer Avenue. It is unfortunate that the famous Stanley Balzekas in the Brighton Park newsletter "Life" while informing the American Public does not mention the key figure of this Museum's collection--the late Dr. A. Račkus. Let us value the men and women who by their own efforts have surpassed us. We will never acquire their worth with money--they are priceless. Only a symbolic cost can be assigned to the cultural treasures amassed by Dr. A. Račkus. Only by examining the altruistic works of each person can we encourage the younger generation to match the accomplishments of these nobler people.

THE CULTURAL TROVE DONATED TO LITHUANIA. In the halls of the University of Lithuania in 1935, Dr. Račkus prepared a great exhibit of his museum quality collection. During and after the Congress, the collection was transferred to the Vytautas the Great Cultural Museum. It was visited by tour groups from far away by hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians. This was the collection of Dr. Račkus: 1) Numismatic Section--29,253 items of gold, silver and other metal coins; 2) Archeological/Mineralogical/Paleontological/Chronicles and Archival materials. Also a numismatic library of 1,956 books which contained information about ancient Lithuanian coins. In this section there were 8,739 cataloged items. In all, the Račkus collection



*Dr. Aleksandras Račkus wearing his 3rd Class Order of Vytautas the Great.*

contained 51,817 cataloged and 30,000 uncataloged items. The total number of items taken to Lithuania was 81,000.

WORK IN LITHUANIA. Lithuania honored Doctor A. Račkus. He was permitted to treat patients without having to pass an examination. He was permitted to retain his American citizenship and to have a Lithuanian citizenship. He was a member of the Lithuanian Foreign Relations Council of Ministers. He directed the History Section of the Vytautas the Great Cultural Museum. For his merits, he was awarded the Order of Vytautas the Great, 3rd Class in 1935, and the Star of the National Guard in 1939.

His wife, a Lithuanian-American, did not smoke or drink until they arrived in Lithuania. Here she met ladies at coffee, and the chain smoking started with predictable consequences. Even though her



husband asked her to stop smoking, she did not listen to him "Does a wife ever listen to a husband--the husband is not an authority to her," Doctor A. Račkus complained to the author of this article. Due to chain smoking, she developed mouth cancer and died in 1964 in Chicago.

We who are still alive, let us learn from the creative work of the late Dr "Alius" (his nickname). Also, let it be a lesson in avoiding harm with regard to his wife's smoking and her untimely departure due to cancer. Sources: Material dictated by Dr. A. Račkus on June 19, 1965.

[THE KNIGHT EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Račkus died October 9, 1965. This article was written shortly after his death, before the Balzekas Museum opened in 1966. Although his post WWII collection was purchased in advance by the Balzekas Museum, not all of it was transferred Museum following the Doctor's death. This especially includes some of the more valuable numismatic items whose whereabouts are unknown today.

Dr. Račkus is honored/memorialized many times at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago (6500 S. Pulaski Rd, 60629) in the many items that formed the foundation of the Museum's original collection. His photograph is hung in the numismatic room, along with the display of his Order of Vytautas the Great 3rd class. Illustrated here is Dr. Račkus wearing his decoration, and his certificate dated September 3, 1935, award No. 744, courtesy of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture].



5.

## NEWS

Earlier this year numismatic specialist and author Eugenijus Ivanauskas of Kaunas, Lithuania visited LNA members and officials here in the U.S. Pictured below circular (starting at the left) around the table at the Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore are: Henry L. Gaidis, Aleksandras Radžius, Nemo Radžius, Robert J. Douchis, Kestutis Chesonis, Eugenijus Ivanauskas.



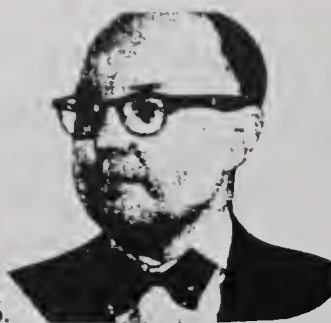
The Bank of Lithuania minted an additional 1,500 pieces of the tiny 1999 gold 10 litų coin "smallest gold coin in the world." They were re-issued on June 25. The original mintage was 4,000 pieces. Of that, 1,500 were distributed in Lithuania, and 2,500 abroad including the United States. The newly minted coins bear the original 1999 date and are not distinguishable from the original ones. This brings the total mintage of the coin to 5,500 pieces. The Bank issue price is 120 litai (U.S. \$30).



LITHUANIAN  
NUMISMATIC  
6. DICTIONARY

By  
Jonas K. Karys

56.



English translation by  
V.L.G. Matelis

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used in eastern Europe by the invading tatars. In occupied lands of the eastern Slavs, they collected tribute from the Russians, and forced the distinct leaders to stamp into their coins tatar tamgas. The Tatar tamgas are found upon some coins of Lithuanian Grand Dukes: Vladimir, son of Algirdas, Romanas, struck in the 14th century at Kiev. and the Tartar leader demanded of Vytautas before the battle of Vorksla (1399), "Pay tribute to me and strike my tamga on your money," that is to say, surrender. However, Vytautas returned that same demand. However, the Tatar tamga was never seen upon a coin of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

TANGA (Indian-Tanka). A. A coin introdud by Patan, sultan of Delhi, and later very popular in Indian (14th Century). B. A coin of the Portugese Indian colony (in Goa and elsewhere), introduced inthe first half of the 17th century, originally of silver and valued at 60 reises; from 1787 of bronze and copper. 16 modern tangas make one rupee.

TAURIEJI METALAI/Precious Metals. Costly, beautiful, glittering, malleable, enduring in air and water, and non-corrosive metals. Platinum, gold, silver and their combinations. All of them have been utilized and used in ornaments, and the productionof various valuable articles. From them the best coins were struck and continued to be struck. The ancient Greek "electrum" is classed as a precious metal.

TAUTINIAI ŽENKLAI/National Signs. Coats of arms and emblems, which at one time were used by the highest leaders of the land, or the specific symbols of state officials. Lithuania's national signs: The spearhead, oldest of all. The Mast Portals, long known as, and still occasionally called the Columns of Gediminas. The Knight (Vytis), the country's coat-of-arms from the 14th to the 15th centuries. The Double-barred Cross, Jogaila's arms, as much within the emblem of the Vytis, as alone.

TERNARAS. A. A component of three, by threes. B. The third in a series, in file or in rank. C. Numismatically, a small silver 3 denar coin of Poland, struck during the 16th and 17th centuries. It was begun by an earlier Cracow "kvartnik" of Jogaila's, reduced in 1398 from 8 to 3 denars. Merchants also termed a ternarius of Poland in Lithuanian circulation. Occasionally both the Polish and the Lithuanian 3-groshe piece was denominated a ternarius, though the Lithuanians basically considered such a coin a "trigrashis."

TESTONAS (Teston, testoon, from the Italian testa, a head). A beautiful coin or medal upon which a portrait has been struck. The high purity silver lira of Venice, issued in 1472 bearing the graceful bust of its issuer, the Doge N. Trono, and weighing 6.52 gr., gave rise to this term. In 1474, it was imitated by the rulers of Milan, L. M. Sforza with his 1.5 lira silver coin, weighing 9.65 gr. Other attractive, weighty and true coins--testons followed from Italian rulers and the Popes. And not only singles, but doubles, triples and even larger pieces (they were considered not only coins but medals also). Their portraits, and the varied, truly lovely reverses even today testify to the amazing artistry of the Renaissance, as contained in the numismatic and medalllic skill of those days. The testons quickly spread through commercial routes to foreign climes, captivating the rulers of those states. So such coins were struck in Portugal (tostao, weighing 9.96 gr) in France (Louis XII teston valued at 10 sols), in Switzerland, Germany (dicken). Teston shillings were strewn all over England and Scotland. The artistic renderings of rulers portraits on testons (in place of the stereotypes previously shown) transformed the production of monetary symbols into an urgent need and into the mode. From these portraits it was possible to recognize the country without any formal legend.

TETRADROME--Four Drachmas, a silver coin of that value, well known and widely circulated in ancient Greece, and later in Roman provinces, outstanding among other coins by its large size (14 to 17 gr. in weight) and its artistic workmanship. One tetradrame was equal to three Roman denarii.

TIENTJE (in public speech, a dime). A gold coin of Holland, 0.900 in purity, valued at 10 guldens, and weighing 6.729 gr. It appeared after the introduction in 1816 of the decimal system, at the time classified among the Whilhelmsdor type coins, and also known by another name--thc "gouden Villem" (a gold Wilhelmsdor).

TIKAL--A Siamcese monetary unit, a silver coin of 100 satangas.





Testonai: 1, Venecijos K-čio N. Tron sid. lira; 2, Milano Hercogo L. M. Sforzos sid. 1,5 liros mon.; 3, Mantuos sid. testonas (apie 1500); 4, Florencijos, Aleksandro Medici (1533-1536; Benvenuto Cellini modelis), antroji pusė — šv. Kosmas ir šv. Domijonas; 5, pranc. Liudviko XIV auks. luidoras (1643).



Tetradrachma: 1, Aleksandro tipo (IV-III a. sen. eros); 2, Atėnų sid. tetradrachma (188-187 sen. eros); 3, Romos Imperat. Augusto (sen.-nauj. erų sąvartos) tetr. Azijos provincijose (Pergamas), — labiausiai panašus originalui paveikslas.

**TIKOCINAS/Tikocine.** A small, historical township in the Near-Poland district, on the left side of the Narevas River, near the Gardinas-Lomza Turnpike. In the 15th century, Tikocine was joined to the Lithuanian Grand Duchy. Sigismund August, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, established a castle for himself there, and in 1565 brought over there from Vilnius and Lithuania, there was the 16th century coin mint, at which a part of Sigismund August's Lithuanian half-groshes and groshes were struck, which coins bore the mintmark of the Mint Governor, Myškovski.

**TIMPA** (Polish, tympf). 1. The Polish silver coin "zlotowka," in the nominal value of 30 groshes, struck during the reign of John Casimir. The timpa was conceived and palmed off to the Finance Committee of the Seim, and to the Lvov and Bydość coin mints, where the entrepreneur, A. Tympf of Torneau, earlier producer of other Polish coins, struck several millions of these coins. The project's initiator and the respective organs of the state, believed that this new coin will help alleviate payment of the huge deficit of the state, and at the same time, salvage much silver, required to produce other coins. As a result of this type of speculation, the 30 grosh coin was found to be barely worth 12 to 13 groshes of real value. In place of the required amount of precious metal, there was struck into the coin the patriotic slogan "dat pretium servata salus potiorque metallo" ("value gives help to the fatherland, which is more valuable than metal"). Three of these coins were supposedly equal to a taler which, in the days of Sigismund August brought 30 groshes. At the end of the 16th century it advanced in price to 36 groshes, while at the end of the reign of Sigismund Vaza it rose to 90 groshes. But even Vaza's 90

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# RAČKUS CARDS

(Continued from page 2...)



**ABOVE:** Card with so-called “denar of Vytautas.”

cards, one is printed against the color orange, the other against a rose lake background. The orange card is enclosed in a less flexible paper frame. In the center of the drawing there is an inscription: “Comfort of the Ill, I am calling You!” Below are found drifts of snow, a stake or fence surrounded by barbed wire and another sentence, this time in English, “There is no Christmas in Lithuania.”

The same statement is repeated in *Flight to Egypt*, drawn in 1952. The card shows the loss of the Fatherland in two pictures. Above is the Holy Family escaping from the cruelty of Herod. Below, a grieving refugee of post-war years. A curious detail: intentionally or not, the letters “DP” (Displaced Persons) are next to the upper, biblical subject.

The collection reproduces five miraculous pictures of Mary from various sanctuaries of Lithuania: Vilnius Žemaičių, Kalvarija, Šiluva, Krekenava, and Paežeriai. Below the picture of Mary of the Gate of Dawn it is written in English: “People don’t have Christmas in occupied Lithuania.”

To the same theme of Freedom are dedicated two greetings with the Liberty Bell, drawn in such a way that the addressee could read word after word a meaningful greeting from the American Lithuanians to their countrymen in Lithuania.

Another Christmas greeting has so much of a text that it would be more fitting to call it an illustrated summons and not a greeting. The drawing features a woman with two children and a bundle. Behind her is the sky in flames, and in front of her, a tablet with an inscription: “D.P. 20th Century.” The text reads, “They fled to the USA and other countries from enslaved Lithuania and from the terrible yoke of Russia,

from the bestial hands of Stalin and his NKVD.”

Politically other greetings are more neutral. Three of them show coins--it was a numismatist who drew them anyway! And, we should add, a romantic. For that inclination to exalt the Lithuanian culture he could not avoid inaccuracies for his “numismatic” greetings--inaccuracies easy to notice for an investigator of today. Without diminishing A. M. Račkus’ importance to the numismatics of Lithuania and understanding that without comparison it was more difficult to get information in his time than now, we shall discuss these greeting cards in detail.

One of the cards show Lithuanian coins of Alexander (1492-1506): Half-grašiai (in the center and below) and denars (above). They are described in the numismatic literature<sup>3</sup> and don’t need additional commentaries.

The other greeting card maintains that it shows the Cathedral built by Mindaugas, King of Lithuania in 1254. Its appearance is recreated from the coin on the left. On the right side there is the obverse of a Lithuanian denar of Kęstutis’ time with the Columns of Gediminas, outwardly resembling the figure shown in the first coin. The English text below asserts that this coin was struck by Mindaugas, and that it shows the first church built in Lithuania by Mindaugas.

It is true that Mindaugas really was the first baptizer of Lithuania and that he built the first cathedral.<sup>4</sup> As N. Kitkauskas maintains,<sup>5</sup> the Cathedral stood in Šventaragis Valley in Vilnius and that its foundations were discovered under the present Cathedral built by L. Stuoka-Gucevičius (1753--1798) at the end of the 18th century. But the coin on the left cannot be tied to Lithuania or Mindaugas in time or geography. It is not known that such coins were found in Lithuania, although in A. M. Račkus’ collection there are three similar bronze coins, likely bought in Western European auctions.

This type of coin has been described in the numismatic literature. For instance, a Norwegian catalog of Viking coins<sup>6</sup> asserts that it is an early Scandinavian coin struck after 950 AD. V.M. Potin<sup>7</sup> presents a photograph of this coin (a) and holds that it was struck in Hedeby, a medieval center of commerce (not far from today’s Schleswig), which emerged around 800 AD and was an important commercial center in the middle





of the 9th to 10th centuries. This opinion is supported by a description of a coin at an auction in Essen (b) as a denar of Harald Blaataand (940-985) [a king of Denmark], struck in Schleswig-Holstein.

Another Christmas card shows a so-called denar of Vytautas, from which originated one of the more conspicuous misconceptions of Lithuanian heraldry: the Insignia of Vytautas. Next to the shown coin is a Latin note "A.D. 1410 MONETA VITOLDI m. DUC. LITUANIAE (1410, coin of the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Vytautas). The secret of the origin of the Insignia of Vytautas is in the Verkiai hoard, preserved in the Numismatic Section of the M. K. Čiurlionis Museum. Here is that denar of Kęstutis, one of circa 2000 denars of this hoard, with a supposed letter "V." The silver denar (13mm. side, 3 gr. of weight) is so thin that a fragment of the middle upright of the Columns of Gediminas shown on the obverse was punched through negatively (recess)[incuse] into the reverse side spearhead and cross. To make understandable the origin of the supposed letter "V" below the crosslet, we show the obverse turned to the corresponding corner. [The illustration shows that the incuse "V" on the Spearhead/Cross side is actually formed on the thin planchet by the very top center vertical line, and the right half of the top horizontal line design punched on other side --editor fp.]

There are many denars in the hoard of Verkiai of which one or other fragment of obverse has been punched through into the reverse or vice versa: a fragment from the reverse into the obverse. But mostly these fragments are not like some letters, usually just distorting the picture of the other side. For instance, in the entrance between the Columns of Gediminas, and thus cannot mislead many. Although in such case when the entrance of Gediminas towers apparently disappears, emerges a variety of Gediminas towers without the entrance, which should not be used. It is a heraldic misunderstanding of the same kind as Vytautas' initial "V."



ABOVE: The denar of the Verkiai hoard which reveals the secret of the so-called "Vytautas' denar." [Rotated bottom photo shows how the top part of the Columns forms a "V" on the opposite side.]

This denar of the Verkiai hoard with the letter "V" first was irresponsibly copied for the numismatic literature obviously by M. Gumowski. Perhaps because of the letter "V" supposedly signified Vytautas' initial (sic!). These denars even today are being attributed to Vytautas. To be sure, M. Gumowski himself thought that "V" meant the mint of Vilnius. Later from this design was created a Lithuanian heraldic symbol, in 1930, the 500th anniversary of the death Vytautas the Great, popularized, shown in the paper notes of the Republic of Lithuania, the decorations. Regrettably this heraldic misconception spreads even today, for instance, in the emblem of the Chasseurs battalion of Vytautas the Great in Kaunas and the shoulder patches of its soldiers.

The curiosity of collectors induced us to look at the other side of the cards. It is blank, only on the Comfort of the Ill, Mary of the Gates of Dawn, Mary of Krekenava, and the Freedom Bell, there is an imprint that the cards were created and manufactured by Dr. A. M. Račkus of Chicago.

It is questionable whether Dr. A. M. Račkus will enter Lithuanian art history with his amateurish cards. But he will enter the

(Continued on page 10...)



## 10. WANT/FOR SALE ADS

**WANTED:** Lithuanian Military weapons, swords, medals, uniforms. Philip Winskunas, 6019 Powderhouse Circle, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57110. E-mail: liet@splitrocktel.net.

**WANTED:** Any brass or aluminum beer, cigar, pool or saloon tokens. Peter Shulin, 645 Hayes Avenue, Washington, PA 15301.

**WANTED:** Copies of Obituaries of Lithuanian-Americans and their descendants for our genealogy department obit files. Any time period. If not mentioned please write date of death (instead of "died Tuesday") and name of paper. Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629. E-mail: genealogy@lithuanian-museum.org.

**FOR SALE:** The rare Pick-28 Lithuania 1938 10 litų PAVYZDYS banknote. Issued in 1938 commemorating the 20th anniversary of Lithuanian independence. Unfortunately the notes printed for circulation were destroyed before release. This is undoubtedly the most difficult note to obtain to complete a set of banknotes from the "first" independence period. Only 1 available. Nice Uncirculated. Priced below catalog at U.S. \$2,250.00. Bob Douchis, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, MD 21045. E-mail: robtd@erols.com.

**FOR SALE:** Hard-cover book, "Klaipėda & Courish Spit in Old Postcards" by A. Kubilas (1999). 225 colorful highly illustrated pages. Tri-lingual text: Lithuanian, German, English throughout. Excellent resource about the Klaipėda region area. In addition to the postcards, numerous Klaipėda medals, banknotes, stamps, seals, etc. \$35.00 postpaid. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224. E-mail me for my latest price list of Lithuanian coins and banknotes. albionfp@hotmail.com.

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## RAČKUS CARDS

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memory of the nation. As a man who endeavored with all available means to lift up the spirit of his small nation.

### FOOTNOTES

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